

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Alabama

Location	Type	Years	Details
Anniston	WBO WBAS	1905-1953	The Weather Bureau established a 1st-order station in Anniston in 1905. This station closed in 1931 and became a 2nd order station on July 1 of that year. It was promoted back to 1st order in 1947, but observations were discontinued in 1949 and the office became a general public service office, which closed at the end of August 1953. The WBAS was in operation from the end of 1946 to February 1950.
Auburn	AWSC	1963-1995?	An agricultural weather station was established at Auburn University in 1963.
<u>Birmingham</u>	WBO WBAS WSFO	1895-1993	Volunteer observations in Birmingham first began in April 1882. The period from 10/1886 to 6/1893 saw no observations. Government observations began again 8/14/1895 on a volunteer basis, with a regular Weather Bureau office established 7/16/1903. The office was in the Title Guarantee Building before permanent WB quarters were built in 1907. A separate WB Airport Station operated from 3/13/1943 to 12/1/1945, when both stations were consolidated at the airport. New airport facilities opened 10/3/1965. A Weather Bureau Forecast Office was established in 1969; the forecast functions moved to separate facilities in 1971. All Birmingham operations transferred to a new facility in Calera 11/30/1993.
<u>Calera</u>	WFO	1993-present	The new Weather Forecast Office was established in Calera, about 25 miles outside Birmingham. The new office opened 11/30/1993. The site began upper-air weather observations in August 1994. The office has direct access to 3 WSR-88D radars (Calera, Hytop, Maxwell AFB). The new AWIPS computer system was installed in April 1999.
Centreville	WSMO	1970-1995	A Weather Service Meteorological Observatory was established in 1970, to operate the WSR-57 network radar. Upper-air observations were added in 1974 after being moved from Montgomery. The office was closed in 1995 after the radar was decommissioned, and the upper-air responsibilities moved to the WFO in Calera (Birmingham).
<u>Huntsville</u>	WBAS WBO WSO WFO	1941-1954, 1958-present	The Weather Bureau established an Airways Station at the Huntsville Municipal Airport on the south side of town, and became the official observing site for the city in 1945. It was closed in July 1954. A permanent Weather Bureau Office was opened in October 1958, and was equipped with a WSR-3 radar. Operations moved to the Huntsville-Madison County Airport in October 1967. The radar was replaced in 1977 with the newer WSR-74C model, and it was upgraded with Doppler capability in 1991; a WSR-88D radar followed in 1997 at nearby Hytop. As part of the NWS modernization, the Huntsville office was planned to be closed by 1997; by the end of the year, the only operations remaining were for radar and surface observations. Local lobbying efforts were successful for a new Weather Forecast Office in 2002, on the University of Alabama at Huntsville campus, and staffing was increased to 18 people; official operations began in January 2003.
<u>Mobile</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS RDO WSO WFO	1870-present	The Signal Service established facilities in Mobile on November 6, 1870. The office was destroyed by a fire in November 1880, causing the loss of early records and equipment. It reopened the next day in a new facility. It operated at various locations downtown, most recently at the U.S. Court House from 1936 to April 1953, when the downtown office closed. Meanwhile, an office opened at the old Bates Field (now Brookley Field) in 1939, and relocated to

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the present Mobile Regional Airport in December 1941. It has remained at this airport since then, with the most recent facility built in 1994.

Montgomery	SigSvc WBO WBAS RDO WSO	1872-1995	The Signal Service established operations in downtown Montgomery in the fall of 1872, with responsibility passed to the Weather Bureau in 1891. An airways station was first established at Gunter Field in April 1939, operating until 1942, when the U.S. Army took over. A new WBAS was opened at Dannelly Field (now Montgomery Regional Airport) in January 1944, and the city and airport offices were consolidated here in 1954. Rawinsonde observations began 6/1/1956 after being moved from Gunter Field AFB. A WSR-3 radar was installed in October 1958 and run through 1971; it was replaced with a WSR-74C in 1977. The upper-air program was moved to Centreville in 1974. The office was closed in 1995.
Tuscaloosa	HQ	2015-present	The National Water Center was opened at the University of Alabama in May 2015, jointly operated with the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
